

District of Columbia Public Library 2003 Annual Report:

ADVOCACY STRENGTHENS LIBRARIES



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INTRODUCTION

Advocacy Strengthens Libraries is the theme for the 2003 Annual Report for the District of Columbia Public Library. At a time when our libraries are undergoing great change, it seems appropriate to highlight one of the most critical elements that make our facilities so special: People.

Take a closer look at how librarians, staff, the Friends and other volunteers help establish the D.C. Public Libraries as pillars in communities across the District. Hear from library customers how the system has impacted them and their families.

Let this report be your guide to the many programs, resources and services available right in our community and to what exciting plans lie ahead in the future. Keep in mind that what you garner from these pages are only snapshots of all that our libraries have to offer. For the full library experience, we welcome you to stop by.

Our Vision:

The District of Columbia Public Library is a recognized force in the community for engaging the mind, expanding opportunities, and elevating the quality of life. We believe equitable access to information, tailored to customer needs equips people to learn all their lives, embrace diversity, and build a thriving city.

Our Mission:

The District of Columbia Public Library provides: environments that invite reading, learning, and community discussion; trained staff and technology to help in finding, evaluating, and using information; opportunities for children, teenagers, adults, and senior citizens to learn to read and use information for personal growth and development.

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

The D.C. Public Library is one system comprised of 27 libraries: our central facility, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, 21 full-service neighborhood libraries, four community libraries and a kiosk. The libraries are vibrant, educational resources for residents and visitors to the nation's capital, situated in a city rich in cultural diversity. They are an eclectic mixture of architectural-style buildings scattered about each quadrant of the city.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

The major responsibility of the Board of Library Trustees is policymaking to ensure that the overall mission of the library system is carried out in an effective and efficient manner. In fact, good policymaking in itself is a form of advocacy, which I believe continues to strengthen the District of Columbia Public Library.

The existence of a sound foundation of policies have guided this library system well over the years and has helped address critical challenges faced by the D.C. Public Library this year. Existing guidelines were used to address the shortfall and projected budget cuts in 2003. The Board maintained that it would be a disservice to library users to merely keep libraries open without materials and staff to maintain an acceptable level of public service and hours. If a proposed budget cut of \$1 million had been upheld, at least two neighborhood libraries would have been closed. With the help of the District of Columbia City Council—and the conviction of our policies, \$1 million and an additional \$500,000 was restored.

Other important decisions will no doubt rest on the Board of Library Trustees' sound policymaking ability. For instance:

- With the passage of the USA Patriot Act comes drastic change to the landscape of personal privacy at libraries.
- A U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) would require the Board of Trustees to address issues of filtering and unfettered access.
- The renovation and/or rebuilding of our libraries will require adherence to regulations, as well as library policy. The matter of whether the D.C. Public Library will continue its long-standing preference for single-use library facilities, or seek to collaborate with others for increased community value, will require sound policymaking.

As stewards of the Library, the Board will continue to identify and use public value strategies and advocacy to add value to our communities through a team approach and one-on-one lobbying. It will also continue to be mindful of existing policies, but be prepared, with substantial research, consultation and exploration, to establish policies to address urgent and long-term imperatives.

Dr. Marie Harris Aldridge, Ed. D
President, Board of Library Trustees



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A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

An enormous first step has been taken this year at the District of Columbia Public Library toward the rebuilding program. Four neighborhood libraries—Anacostia, Benning, Watha T. Daniel/Shaw and Tenley-Friendship—were put out for bid to contractors for redevelopment. Construction is expected to begin by summer 2004. It's going to be a thrill to have brand new facilities that will truly be 21st century libraries.

This redevelopment effort leads the way for a massive transformation that is taking place at our library branches. We want these newly enhanced structures to be an exciting draw to people passing by. Our goal is to reach people who have not been regular D.C. Public Library users, with an array of resources offered in attractive, comfortable environments.

The Library is improving its visibility in the community thanks to the support efforts of consumer advocate Ralph Nader through his D.C. Library Renaissance Project. The Library has also garnered attention from successful programming, including *DC We Read* and *Summer Quest*, as well as through its newest community partnership effort, the Enhanced Business Information Center (e-BIC). With the launching of e-BIC, our library system is becoming a major player in the economic development arena. This new library resource offers an environment of better business opportunities to local small business through resources, counseling and training opportunities.

In 2004, you will see that the Library is contributing toward education and lifelong learning through specific types of partnerships and additional library programs. You will also see the groundwork laid for how the city plans to move toward rebuilding a new central library.

Making my departure as library director is bittersweet. What I will miss most about the D.C. Public Library is the staff. They are a very dedicated staff, working tirelessly to meet the needs of our community with very limited resources. I will also miss our Friends groups and the library board for helping to continue the Library's push forward.

I hope that as library director I have advanced the Library in a way that has made it a great place to work, providing opportunities for all staff to grow and learn everyday, as well as to inspire efforts to go the extra mile in offering excellent customer service. I have a passion for public library service in an urban environment, and a belief that libraries can and do change people's lives.

For my successor, I leave the following advice: Take advantage of the treasure that surrounds you—the library staff; build relationships with the community, they love libraries and want to help; and remember the importance of being a leader and a manager.

Mary E. (Molly) Raphael
Director



MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM LIBRARY DIRECTOR



Richard L. Jackson became interim library director of the District of Columbia Public Library in October 2003 following Molly Raphael's retirement in September. Jackson formerly served as the assistant library director for Management and Support Services before being appointed to his new position by the Board of Library Trustees.

"I'm glad I've been given the opportunity to learn more about the business of public libraries. This role requires me to maintain the current organizational alignment, as well as to minimize long-term decision-making requirements. Also, as a second-year member of the agency's administration, I can fully appreciate the need to increase the working abilities of our public libraries through construction of state-of-art facilities and program enhancements that tackle literacy, crime and educational tools for our citizens. The search for a new agency director is just the start of what is needed to move DCPL into the 21st century. Just two years ago, I was someone looking from the outside in at our library system. Since then, I've grown to understand and appreciate the reasons why the public library is the cornerstone for which many tirelessly support."

STRATEGIC PLAN

The District of Columbia Public Library has developed a set of standards that target nine key areas of the library system. The 2002-2004 Strategic Plan focuses on making our facilities more attractive and safer, improving customer service, introducing new technology and creating more life enhancement opportunities through programs and services.

GOAL 1

Manage construction of four state-of-the-art library buildings by September 2004 and have five additional libraries in the procurement phase.

GOAL 2

Provide convenient hours and inviting, safe environments in library facilities.

GOAL 3

Offer educational and literacy enhancement opportunities to children and youth.

GOAL 4

Develop lifelong learning and literacy improvement opportunities for adults.

GOAL 5

Ensure free and equitable access to technology and training for D.C. residents.

GOAL 6

Enhance library collections to support the lifelong learning of an ethnically diverse public.

"When I was seven years old, my teacher told me to look something up in the dictionary. We didn't have one in our house, so I asked her where I could find one. She told me to go to the Library. From that day, I've enjoyed going to the Library to read. I did most of my traveling through books before I was sent to Europe by the military during World War II. Recently, I had eye surgery and am unable to see small print. The CapitolView staff noticed that I wasn't asking for books like I used to. I explained my problem and they didn't hesitate to supply me with books-on-tape and large print books. Now, I can enjoy reading after surgery."

-a customer at the Capitol View Neighborhood for the past 15 years.

GOAL 7

Increase library involvement in community life and offer programs for cultural understanding and civic engagement.

GOAL 8

Conduct staff training to meet high accountability standards.

GOAL 9

Maintain a consistently high standard of customer service at the Library.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Stacks Above The Rest

NUTURING A LOVE FOR LITERATURE

A fourth grader from Capitol Day School was one of eight winners of the D.C. Public Library's Letters About Literature 2003 essay contest. The student went on to win the national competition sponsored by the D.C. Center for the Book. The national essay contest requires that the children participating write a letter to their favorite author. The fourth grader wrote a letter to Lois Lowry, author of *The Giver*.

DIABETES CENTER BENEFITS ARE PROOF POSITIVE

A leadership breakfast and press briefing was held in May 2003 to officially launch the new Diabetes for Life Learning Center at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. In operation since November 2002, the center provides free health management classes that teach the simple ABC's of diabetes. Offering her testimonial to the center was one of the Library's very own employees, who shared with the audience of healthcare providers, sponsors, public officials and members of the community how she learned to successfully control her diabetes that has challenged her over the past seven years. Among those praising the library employee's efforts was former Congressman Newt Gingrich, a guest speaker at the event.

REMEMBERING DR. KING—THE MAN, THE LIFE, THE LEGACY

Elementary and high school students from D.C. Public Schools participated in the program, *Reading King: A Celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday*. The Library's Cultural Celebrations Committee organized the daylong event in partnership with the DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund, Greater D.C. Cares and the Newseum, the interactive museum of news. The program paid homage to Dr. King's life and legacy. Elementary school students followed along with Anchorwoman Andrea Roane, WUSA9, who read the award-winning book, *Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport. High school students shared their personal reflections of Dr. King, and participated in a quiz show. A highlight of the program was the installation of two colorful murals in the lobby of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. Also, Greater D.C. Cares spearheaded a community-wide bookdrive.

Cheryl Foster, a visual artist of Washington, D.C., joins local public elementary school students, library staff and partners during the unveiling of two murals of Dr. King during the program, *Reading King*. Foster was commissioned by the Newseum to design a hands-on workshop to create the murals that hang in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

Teens from local public high schools participated in *Holla Back @ DCPL*, the Library's Summer Reading program for young people that featured a drum line band exhibition.



A LITERACY EXCHANGE ABROAD

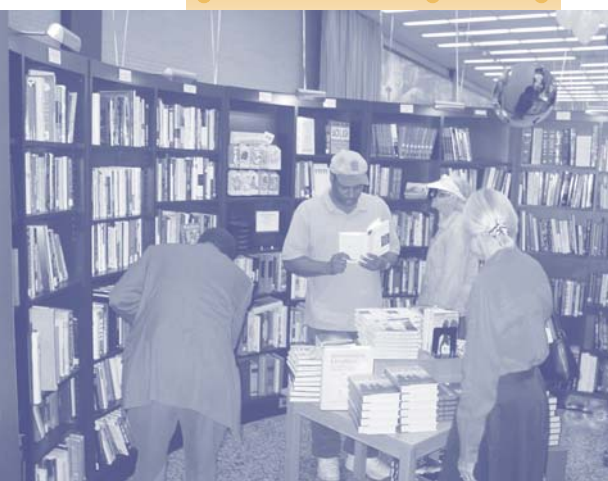
In observance of International Literacy Day in September 2003, the Library hosted an international exchange of touching letters between literacy students in the United States and in Troyes, France. The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization sponsored the event intended to promote literacy and education for all. The Library provided displays and educational materials about learning English as a Second Language (ESL) and earning a High School Diploma or GED. In addition, children participating in multicultural storytelling sessions had opportunities to make kofi hats from Africa, Oriental fans and Guatemalan worry dolls.

TWO BOOKSTORE ROLL OUTS

In September 2003, the Library opened bookstores at two locations, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library and the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Neighborhood Library. Books Plus, The Library Store at the central library reopened its doors after being closed for three years with a new store manager, a potpourri of fabulous new merchandise, as well as a new slogan: *Where Every Purchase Supports Your Library!* All proceeds of the store help to purchase new books and materials for the D.C. Public Library system. The Friends of the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Library Bookstore was the brainchild of the library's branch manager, who thought a store at the library would provide a good place for people to complete service projects, experience the working world and grasp an understanding of entrepreneurship. Both stores sell books withdrawn from the library collection and an array of supply items.

CELEBRATING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN D.C.

The Library participated in the citywide event, *Blues and Dreams: Celebrating African-American Heritage*, held from September-November 2003. The Washington, D.C. Convention and Tourism Corporation and the DC Heritage Tourism Coalition sponsored the event that pays tribute to African American heritage and culture in our city through art, music, theater, history and literature. Cultural organizations, hotels and restaurants throughout the city created special programming for the event. The Library's Art Division hosted two slide and lecture presentations based on the exhibit, *The Art of Romare Bearden*, displayed in the National Gallery of Art and the exhibit, *African-American Quilts* from the Robert and Helen Cargo Collection at the Textile Museum. The Washingtoniana Division displayed the exhibit, *Demonstrating in Washington: The Civil Rights Movement in D.C.*, featuring historic photos from its *Washington Star* collection.



Library patrons browse book selection at Books Plus. All profits help purchase new books and materials for the library system.

The Library hosted a grand opening of Books Plus, The Library Store in September 2003. The weeklong celebration included a special ribbon cutting ceremony, featuring a Children's Division librarian as the popular book character Amelia Bedelia, the literal-minded housekeeper created by author Peggy Parish, and a fall book sale.



Students attending *Holla' Back @ DCPL* received a personal copy of the book, *Paint Me Like I Am: Teen Poems* by the WritersCorps, and a free "Drumline" movie poster donated by 20th Century Fox ©.

@ YOUR SERVICE: SATISFYING PUBLIC WANTS, NEEDS AND DEMANDS

The D.C. Public Library's Marketing & Communications Department rolled out two research initiatives, the annual customer satisfaction survey and the comment card. Both measurement tools give customers an opportunity to tell the Library what they think about its services. As a way to help customers map their way through its vast resources, the Library also distributed two new brochures: *Welcome to Your Library* and *Online Services and Your Library Card*. Yet another new service for customers is the distribution of attractive, yet sturdy carrying bags at library circulation desks. The Library was approached by a company called Novel Media to provide free bags in exchange for selling advertisement space on both sides. The bags feature the name of the Library and our website across the top and bottom on both sides.

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN AUTHORS ON PARADE

The Washington, D.C. Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. with the D.C. Public Library hosted the program, *African American Women Authors*. Featured authors included: Eloise Greenfield and Delta Authors on Tour, Venise Berry, Victoria Christopher Murray, Rachell Guillory, Trevy McDonald, Stephanie Perry Moor, Clara Adams-Ender, Elizabeth Clark Lewis, Vivian Sammons and Janeula Burt. Library customers could meet the authors, and take part in the following workshops: *Women and Relationships*, *Faith and Spirituality*, *Writing Our History* and *Storytelling*.

TEENS HOLLA' BACK @ DCPL

District high school students helped usher in a summer reading program at the D.C. Public Library designed especially for teens. During the kick off event for *Holla' Back @ DCPL*, participating high schools showed off their musical talents in a drum line exhibition in front of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. Students jammed to the sounds of the cool drum beats and were urged to sign up for the new library program that featured a book review contest and prizes. Also, colleges from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area offered information to the students about scholarships in music, art, debate and chess.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

CLEVELAND PARK CELEBRATES A GOLDEN MILESTONE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Cleveland Park Neighborhood Library! The branch celebrated its 50th Anniversary in November 2003 with community residents, library staff and volunteers from the Friends of the Cleveland Park Library, Cleveland Park Citizens Association and the Cleveland Park Historical Society. The daylong event featured Mark Russell, political humorist and Cleveland Park resident, as the Master of Ceremonies and an array of local authors. Local artist Eleanor Oliver featured her work on special anniversary merchandise sold during the event to support library projects. In addition, advance orders were taken for a special community cookbook featuring neighborhood recipes.

"Some of our cutest library stories involve children. One of our circulation desk technicians fondly remembers a toddler who wanted her book so much that she wouldn't give it up to be checked out. Her mother had to pick her up out of the stroller, and hand the child/book combination over to be checked out. In another situation one of our children's librarians recalls a large group of about 10 children who came into the Library misbehaving terribly. Later, she said, all of them, but one came up separately to apologize for their behavior, and informed the librarian of how much they loved her and the Library."

-Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Library

Consumer Advocate Ralph Nader, who founded the D.C. Library Renaissance Project, testifies before the D.C. City Council during a library hearing.



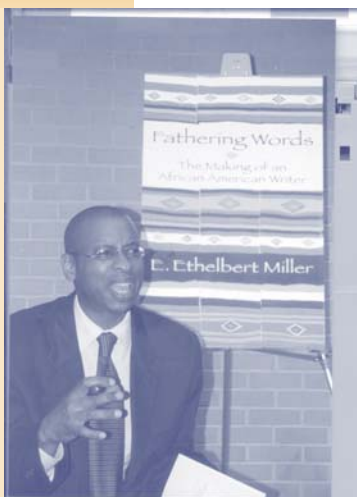
READY, SET, EVERYBODY READ!

The D.C. Public Library launched a citywide book club, *DCWe Read*, in 2002. In 2003, *Fathering Words: The Making of an African American Writer* by noted D.C. literacy activist and poet E. Ethelbert Miller, was chosen. The primary objective of *DCWe Read* is to inspire people of all backgrounds, ages and educational levels across the city to rediscover the joys of reading. *DCWe Read* organizes a number of formal, enjoyable book discussions in DCPL's neighborhood and community libraries, and supports discussions at other locations.

NEW CYBER MAGAZINE JUST FOR TEENS

Check it out! The D.C. Public Library has a cool new *e-zine*. That's right, an *e-zine*. It's a magazine online, the first of its kind in the city. This new publication called *DC Teen Gazette* is sponsored by the Friends of Library Services for Young Adults and is available online at www.dcteengazette.org. Created and produced exclusively by teens, the magazine is published four times a year, in February, May, August and November. It provides a unique communications vehicle for young adults to learn about their community, city and world, and provides opportunities for young artists, reporters, columnists, short story writers, photographers and poets to get their work published.

Author E. Ethelbert Miller is being interviewed by Jonetta Rose Barras, author of *Whatever Happened to Daddy's Little Girl?*, during the finale of *DC We Read* 2003.



LIBRARY RENEWAL

World-renowned consumer advocate Ralph Nader established the D.C. Library Renaissance Project to help raise awareness of the steady decline of the D.C. Public Library. In March, Nader was among several library advocates testifying before the D.C. City Council against an FY 2004 budget proposal submitted by Mayor Anthony A. Williams to cut over \$966,000 in operating funds. At the hearing it was standing room only with more than 30 people scheduled to testify. Library patrons at the hearing were of all ages and professions, from high school students and adult learners, to university professors and authors. They came to express their dismay over the proposed budget cut that would have forced the closure of at least two D.C. Library branches. Prior to the hearing, Nader organized a rally of over 100 people on the steps of the John A. Wilson building.



From the left: Library Director Molly Raphael, Mayor Anthony A. Williams and Joseph Loddo of the U.S. Small Business Administration take part in a special ribbon cutting of the new Enhanced Business Information Center (e-BIC).



Mayor Anthony A. Williams leads a book discussion with residents at the Edgewood Terrace apartment complex in Northeast during *DC We Read*.

Over 100 library supporters rally in front of the John A. Wilson building.



E-BIC NOW OPEN FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Come all current and prospective business owners to the D.C. Public Library's Enhanced Business Information Center (e-BIC) at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. Check out the array of planning tools, free on-site resources, staff assistance, training courses and workshops to help entrepreneurs start, grow and expand their businesses. The e-BIC includes a video conferencing room, computer terminals, expert counselors, training courses, a business information resource library and a reading room. The Library, the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development are providing e-BIC as a way to collectively offer cutting edge programs and services to foster growth and development of local businesses.

WILD ABOUT BOOKS

A new booklet, *Curious About the People, Places and Politics in this Town?*, was published by the Collections Development and Management Department to highlight children's books with a Washington, D.C. theme. The full-color, eight-page booklet offers answers to frequently asked questions about our nation's capital. The booklet was featured in the Pavilion of States at the National Book Festival in October 2003 on the National Mall. The accompanying artwork was used with permission from the children's book, *Washington, D.C. ABC's*, written and illustrated by Carla Golembe with Cheryl and Peter Barnes (VSP Books, 2001).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Neighborhood and Community Libraries

LAMOND-RIGGS NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

The *Summer Quest* Children's Art program at the branch received special attention in *The Washington Post* with a feature article about local artist Wendell Brown, who taught children participating in the program how to make a mural. Under Brown's instruction, the children created a Fabric Mosaic honoring the architects Bryant & Bryant who designed the library building.

PETWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

The branch partnered with the U.S. Census Bureau to provide the agency with meeting space it needed to disseminate and collect census information, and other raw data to complete the U.S. Census.

WASHINGTON HIGHLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

A partnership with the National Urban League was established to provide a new reading service to the public. The Library provided the space and the Urban League provided the necessary furnishings for the beautifully decorated center. Four Urban League members maintain the center, providing reading sessions three times a week. This wonderful resource to D.C. Public Library patrons is one of four in the country.

WATHA T. DANIEL/SHAW NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

The CityYear Organization, a national youth program that promotes volunteerism and national service, partnered with the branch for a volunteer activity during their 2003 convention. A mural was painted in the "mouth" in the Children's Room that features world-renowned images including the Great Wall of China, the Giza Pyramid, The Taj Mahal and The Eiffel Tower.

The Morehouse Glee Club performs its free annual concert to library patrons at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library.



From left: A librarian and First Lady Laura Bush.

Air Force @ your library performs its free annual concert series.



Students do a warm up exercise for Storytime with Alma Powell. The children recieved Honey and Benji Bear masks and personal copies of her book, *America's Promise*.



WOODRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

Library doors were reopened for business in February after being closed to undergo improvements. The newly painted facility has been brightened with shades of lime green and orange. The preschool area is a big hit with children and their caregivers. Also, the *NewYouth Zone* programs, *Baby Time* and a *Teen Book Club*, have attracted young people of all ages.

COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

Strong programming statistics for children's activities were posted at Community Libraries in 2003. The attendance of children under five years old at library programs accounted for about 15 percent of the overall D.C. Public Library participants in that age group. Sursum Corda Community Library alone served about 6,000 children. The work at the Deanwood Kiosk and the Parklands-Turner Community Library were recognized respectively in articles in *The Washington Post*. Also, residents in the R.L Christian community have rallied to insure that the H Street Redevelopment plan includes a larger and better library on the present site and have been raising funds to improve conditions at the current facility.

A library employee's family life story was featured in the movie "Profoundly Normal" that aired on CBS ©, starring Kirstie Alley and Delroy Lindo. A special premiere was held at the Library in February 2003.



"Children arrive early for our preschool program at the Library. Class begins at 10:30 am. The children's librarian escorts the group that comes from various neighborhood daycare facilities down to the meeting room. The children spend the hour submersed in an array of activities. They are treated to three short films and two stories, and sing and dance to several children's songs. When the program is over, 75 tiny tots leave the branch happy, but exhausted, ready for their lunch and an afternoon nap."

-Benning Neighborhood Library

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CONTINUED

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library Subject Divisions

BUSINESS DIVISION

Robert Schwaninger, general counsel of Small Business Telecommunications, presented an outstanding seminar, *How To Build A Successful Business*, to an eager audience of library customers who either owned a business or were interested in starting one. Schwaninger provided information on business plans, sole proprietorship, partnership, researching the market and Limited Liability Corporations, just to name a few. The seminar was so popular that it was repeated two weeks later, and videotaped so that it could be added to the Library's audiovisual collection for circulation.

MUSIC DIVISION

The Kindler Collection of Orchestral sets is a special asset of the D.C. Public Library. It is comprised of full conductor scores and performing parts, including a recent donation from retiring conductor Maestro Yarborough. Only the Free Library of Philadelphia has a comparable collection. With the high concentration of talented classical musicians in the Washington, D.C. area and a general public with an insatiable appetite for classical music, this collection helps to satisfy a community demand, offering free standard orchestral repertoire to area organizations.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

The Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program held at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library in August 2003 promoted healthy living and disease prevention, to increase the number of people who sign up as organ donors and to encourage family discussions. The daylong observance was also intended to increase awareness of the behaviors that may lead to the need for organ transplants such as smoking, alcohol, substance abuse and poor nutrition.

Alma Powell reads her book to students.



"Aspiring artists Theodore, 9, and his brother Walter, 8, follow the instruction of local artist A.J. Giovanni during a Teen Art Expression program at Southeast Neighborhood Library. The boys are learning the art of cartooning and the challenge is to duplicate the technique they just learned to create an action figure. Giovanni showed the boys how a series of carefully drawn lines, triangles and circular angles connected together form a perfectly sketched image. From this free art class at the Library the boys have learned how to draw portraits, profiles and full-body images. They also get to express their own imaginations during a free style session, where, for these boys, robots, as well as superheroes Superman and Spiderman are the images of choice to draw. Giovanni's volunteer efforts at the Library involves his Art Group of Capitol Hill, an organization of about 50 working artist and musicians who are mentors to community youth. In 2003, Giovanni was instrumental in getting artwork by teens at the Library hung in the local Market 5 Gallery."

-Southeast Neighborhood Library

SOCIOLOGY, EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT DIVISION

The division and the DC Trust Foundation have been in partnership to foster awareness of child abuse prevention in our nation's capital. The Trust donated copies of its newest title, *Kids Count Data Book*, and agreed to provide speakers for future library programs on the subject of child abuse and neglect. Also, a collaborative effort with Mocha Moms, a local support group for parents of color who have chosen to remain at home in order to raise their children, led to the division getting author Paula Penn-Nabrit as a program speaker.

WASHINGTONIANA DIVISION

The archivist of the Washingtoniana Division discussed the rise of *The Evening Star* newspaper from a modest daily in 1852 to a major newspaper in 1902 during a special session at the *30th Annual Washington, D.C. Historical Studies Conference*. The archivist lecture was based on her extensive work with *The Washington Star* Collection, the photo morgue of the defunct newspaper. The conference was held in November 2003 at the new City Museum and was co-sponsored with the George Washington University and the Humanities Council of Washington, D.C.



As part of an area library tour, the *Sesame Street* character Cookie Monster visited children at Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Library.

Mayor Anthony A. Williams and First Lady Laura Bush participate in a special day of service in the Children's Room in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They worked with volunteers from Greater D.C. Cares, organizing and shelving books.



Friend of the Library lends a hand straightening books on the shelf.

Targeted and Outreach Services

LIBRARY FOR DEAF SERVICES

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the division partnered to arrange signed lectures before performances, including opera, plays and popular entertainment.

OLDER ADULT SERVICES

Seniors at Delta Towers, Georgetown Retirement Home and Congress Heights Senior Wellness Center took part in a special *Black Facts Trivia* program. Participants tested their knowledge of black history and culture. The questions covered the pre-slavery time period to the African American pop culture. What really made this program exciting was the enthusiasm and competitiveness of the seniors, who wanted to show their expertise in the various subject areas. The winners of the trivia program had their pick of complimentary DCPL logo items.

EXHIBITS

A World Beyond Books

LIFE PIECES TO MASTERPIECES

January 7 - March 4, 2003

The Library featured this exhibit among several others in recognition of Black History Month in February. The exhibit was a display of sewn canvases that tell stories of everyday experiences of young male artists in the program, Life Pieces To Masterpieces, a non-profit youth development organization. African American males, ages 3-21, living in low-income, public housing are eligible to participate in this art enrichment experience, where they learn how to paint on canvas pieces that are cut into various shapes and sewn together to form a single work of art.

COUNTDOWN TO ETERNITY

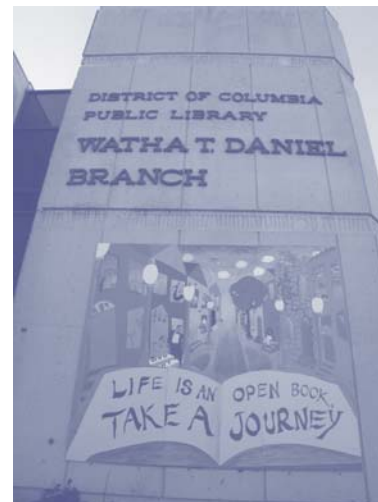
August 7 - September 29, 2003

Originally funded by The Ford Foundation as a tribute to Dr. King, the *Countdown to Eternity* exhibit was developed for presentation in communities of economic need throughout the United States, but has traveled extensively in Europe. For the first time in our nation's capital the complete exhibit was featured. The 78 black and white photos offer a rare glimpse of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. throughout the year before his assassination. Library officials hosted the exhibit in support of upcoming plans by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to commemorate of the 40th Anniversary of the March on Washington. The exhibit was on display in the windows of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library at 9th and G Streets.



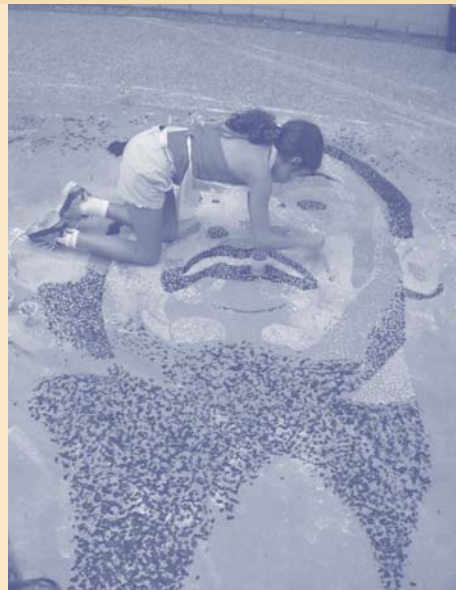
LUMINOUS LIBRARIES PHOTO EXHIBIT:

A Circulation Desk supervisor works in her office at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library.



The Watha T. Daniel Neighborhood Library building features a mural created by the Shaw Eco-Village and other community organizations. Under the direction of a professional artist, they created and executed the artistic concept that acknowledges the contributions of many Shaw residents to the District and the nation.

Children and their families were sprawled across the floor of the Library armed with Q-tips® and cups of paint during a hands-on workshop. They worked for hours placing dots and splashes side-by-side in patterns pre-arranged by visual artist Cheryl Foster.



25 Years of Art from the University of the District of Columbia, January 9-February 24, 2003.

NEEDED: LUMINOUS LIBRARIES, BEACONS FOR THE FUTURE

September 2 - October 25, 2003

Startling photos by freelance photographer Kike Arnal were depicted in this exhibit sponsored by the D.C. Library Renaissance Project. Arnal's photos bring attention to the deteriorating facilities of the Anacostia, Francis A. Gregory/Fort Davis, Georgetown, Mount Pleasant, R.L. Christian, Watha T. Daniel/Shaw, Washington Highlands and Woodridge neighborhood libraries and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. The photos capture their neglect and decline due to years of budget cuts. The photos also show the inadequate supply of books and the need for additional security on the streets surrounding the library facilities. The condition of the library branches featured in this exhibit represents the state of facilities throughout the entire library system.

NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN

October 30 - December 1, 2003

Featured in the exhibit, *Not To Be Forgotten*, were 70 large pictorial panels that create a documentary chronicle of the crimes of the communist regime in Ukraine in which an estimated 15 million Ukrainians died as a direct consequence of the policies of the Soviet occupiers. The exhibit is in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in which approximately 7 to 10 million Ukrainians were starved to death in a man-made famine to crush the nationally conscious Ukrainian peasantry. The exhibit is comprised of never before seen materials from KGB archives and unique and shocking photos that document the tragic events of Ukraine's Soviet past.



COUNTDOWN TO ETERNITY PHOTO EXHIBIT: Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King at home in their living room in Atlanta, Georgia, November 1967.



25 Years of Art from the University of the District of Columbia, January 9-February 24, 2003.

"The Create and Publish Your own Book program represents another success for the young patrons in the community. The children's librarian worked with several of our young people to teach them the art of bookmaking. They each wrote their own story to be made into a book. They also submitted pictures of themselves to be placed on the book cover. Once the books were written, the children's librarian sent them off to a book publishing company. Upon return delivery, the young writers were very excited to see their finished product."

-Capitol View Neighborhood Library

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Building Better Libraries

In December 2003, the District of Columbia Zoning Commission unanimously approved a rule-making text change to amendment 106.5 DCMR Title 11. Public libraries have historically been permitted as government use on city or federal property and therefore not subject to zoning. However, in 1990 the D.C. City Council passed legislation requiring city property to be subject to zoning, excluding governmental land or building uses that were in existence or substantially planned prior to May 1990.

As a result of this regulation change, the currently proposed redevelopment of the District of Columbia Public Library buildings could not occur without obtaining special permission to do so. A portion of the zoning regulation stated that libraries were not permitted to be located in residential or special purpose zoning districts. (The

majority of the District's libraries are located in residential areas.)

The Library spearheaded the change to the regulation in order to move forward with its plan of providing 21st century state-of-the art libraries for the residents of the District. The new regulation allows for "public libraries" to be located within all zoning districts except industrial. The Zoning Commission took the extra step of distinguishing between public and private libraries in the new regulation.

This is a monumental accomplishment for the Library. Now the work of renovating and/or reconstructing our libraries can begin and the residents of the District and the community can benefit from a system that is inviting, and inspires reading, learning and personal success.

IMPROVEMENTS CHECKLIST

In 2003, interiors were renovated at three neighborhood libraries. The renovations have made the facilities more inviting, the interiors properly illuminated and environments more cheerful due to the selection of a variety of colors. See the chart below highlighting specific library locations and improvements made.

	Carpet Replacement	Energy Efficient lighting	New acoustical tile ceilings	Restrooms compliant w/ the Americans with Disabilities Act	Ergonomically designed table and chairs	State-of-the-art Circulation Desk compliant w/ the Americans with Disabilities Act
Capitol View Neighborhood Library	●	●	●	●	●	●
Southwest Neighborhood Library	●	●	●	●	●	
West End Neighborhood Library	●	●	●	●	* ●	* ●

*Funding received through a private donation.



Petworth Neighborhood Library

LIBRARY USAGE

Adaptive Library Services, formerly the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped produced 331 programs in 2003, reaching 4,716 library customers. The purpose of the service is to raise awareness of the Library's programs and services that offer equal access to information and services for those citizens who need adaptive formats, computer software, or accessible delivery of library materials and programs.

Demographic studies show that the city's population eligible for the services in this division are nearly 20,000 who are visually impaired; 52,000 who are hearing impaired; 4,500 residents in institutions and homes for the elderly; more than 60,000 residents over the age of 65, many of whom are incapacitated to some extent and in need of special delivery services; and more than 10,000 children in the D.C. Public Schools Special Education Department.

Among the many patrons using our services is an entertainer. S. Robert Morgan is the founder/artistic director of Essential Theatre, and performs on the hit HBO cable series "The Wire." Everyday, Morgan, who is blind, sits for hours at the JAWS Screen Reader in the division's Assistive Technology Center. Morgan uses the center's computers to write proposals for grants focusing on interdisciplinary learning to support children's theater program in the District of Columbia Public Schools. From the theater's inception, its Board of Directors has met in various neighborhood libraries, particularly the

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. Morgan also uses the center's computers to conduct research for character roles and to obtain specific theatrical plays on tape. "I've been coming to the D.C. Public Library since high school and have always found what I needed," he said. "The library system has a very comprehensive approach to providing services to persons with disabilities."



S. Robert Morgan

In 2003, more than 2 million visitors frequented our 27 library locations and some 700,000 or more visited the website from either a library public computer or another outside location. The top four web resources visited on the library website for the year were Diabetes for Life Learning Center, Black Renaissance in Washington, D.C., Library Services and M.L. King Library. Also, total material circulation was 1.1 million items and there were 27,891 new registrations for our library cards offered in four colorful designs.

DCPL BY THE NUMBERS

Population of service area	571,822
Square miles of service area	69
Active borrowers since January 2000	237,557
Square footage (all facilities)	855,000
Total facilities	26 branches + central library
Public Service Hours per week	1,098
Librarians/All Full-Time Staff	157/425
Total Annual Circulation	1,155,260
Bookmobiles (serving senior centers)	1
R.O.A.R van (serving daycare centers)	1

A BREAKOUT BY AGE OF CUSTOMERS UTILIZING THE LIBRARY'S PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Age Range	Target Goal	Actual Goal
Newborn-5	65,000	83,967
Grades 1-8	50,000	51,954
Young Adult-Adult	32,000	40,755

CIRCULATION FIGURES OF PRINTED MATERIALS

Goal	Items Circulated Annually
Target	1,100,000
Actual	1,155,260

NUMBER OF PUBLIC COMPUTERS FOR INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Goal	Library Public Computers
Target	225
Actual	242

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal 2002 and 2003

Support for the library system remained flat for the third fiscal year in a row. Since 2001, our total operating expenditures have remained at approximately \$28 million per year. As noted in previous reports, our costs have continued to rise while we have not received corresponding increases in funding. While the Library could absorb some cuts in its funding without affecting its operating hours, the cumulative effect of several years of cuts finally resulted in a reduction in operating hours in 2003. The reduction in hours allowed the Library to maintain the same level of funding for personnel while its unionized employees received contractual pay increases. Union employees, who comprise two-thirds of all library employees, received a 4 percent increase effective April 1, 2003. The Library also reduced its spending on equipment and contract services in order to absorb continuing increases in utility expenditures and vehicular leases.

	2003 Unaudited		2002 Audited	
D.C. Government	\$25,707,181	95.0%	\$26,377,586	92.8%
Federal Grants	\$631,790	2.3%	\$481,738	1.7%
District Agencies	\$411,427	1.5%	\$837,236	2.9%
Fines and Fees	\$268,476	1.0%	\$265,000	0.9%
Private Sources	\$50,881	0.2%	\$451,720	1.6%
Total	\$27,069,755		\$28,413,280	

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC LIBRARY PARTNERS FOR 2003

American Library Association
 ArtVision Exhibitions, LLC
 Bearden Foundation
 Blimpie
 Books-A-Million
 Borders Books and Music
 Brazilian Embassy
 Chinatown Asian American Center
 Code Pink
 Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States
 Cultural Tourism DC
 DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund
 D.C. Black History Celebration Committee
 D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities
 D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation
 D.C. Department of Human Services
 D.C. LEARNs
 D.C. Library Renaissance Project
 D.C. Office of Early Childhood Development
 D.C. Public Schools
 D.C. Refugee Resettlement Program
 Delta Sigma Theta
 Dynacolor Graphics
 Education and Libraries Network Coalition (EdLINC)
 Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the United States of America
 French Embassy
 Gamma Phi Delta
 Greater D.C. Cares
 Humanities Council of Washington, D.C.
 Ilford Imaging
 Institute of Museum and Library Services
 Junior League of Washington, D.C.
 Leica Camera, Inc.

Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs
 McDonald's
 NASA
 National Gallery of Art
 National Textile Museum
 NBC4
 Newseum
 Olsson's Books and Records
 Pennsylvania Quarter Neighborhood Association
 Politics and Prose Bookstore and Coffeehouse
 Reading is Fundamental (RIF)
 Southern Christian Leadership Conference
 Smithsonian Institution
 Starbucks Coffee Company
 Swann Auction Galleries
 Teatro de la Luna
 The Center for Washington Area Studies
 The George Washington University
 The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.
 The Humanities Council of Washington, D.C.
 The Washington Freedom
 The Washington Mystics
 The Washington Post
 The Washington Post.com
 The Washington Redskins Leadership Council
 U.S. Small Business Administration
 Walkers Shortbread
 Washington Apple Pi
 Washington, DC Convention Center & Tourism Corporation
 Washington Gas
 Washington Hospital Center
 Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
 Whole Foods Market-Tenley
 WJLA-Channel 7

HISTORY

Building Upon a Foundation

The District of Columbia's first Library was located in a house at 1326 New York Ave., NW. It was open to the public in 1898, following an appropriation by Congress for the money. The location was chosen because it was on a major streetcar line making it accessible to the people from all sections of the city. Rent for the building was \$1,000 per year. The Library quickly grew and soon required a larger, more traditional facility. Andrew Carnegie offered \$250,000 for the construction of a library building provided that Congress chose a site, and insured suitable maintenance. Soon after, Congress approved Mount Vernon Square, at 7th and New York Ave. as the new location and the central library was created. During the dedication ceremony held in 1903, Commissioner H.B.F. McFarland referred to the Library as "the people's college."

Weston Flint became the first librarian/director for the D.C. Public Library in 1904. Following his retirement, Dr. George Bowerman was appointed to the position and remained there for 36 years. Bowerman, an innovator, brought the Library in line with the progressive practices of that period, introducing new services and expanding others. Also, during this time, library branches, funded by Carnegie, were being constructed. Clara Herbert, who had been Bowerman's assistant, took over as



Carnegie Library Reading Room, 1905

library director and saw it through the war years. In 1947, after her four-year tenure, Harry Peterson began a new era of leadership characterized by more branch expansions, an internal reorganization and success in acquiring a new central library.

The new facility, designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, was eight times the size of the old central library, and brought together for the first time in 30 years all the Library's administrative, technical and public services. The new building, located at 9th and G Streets, NW, was named after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1972, Milton Byam became the first African American library director. Dr. Hardy R. Franklin followed as the sixth library director from 1974 to 1997. Mary E. "Molly" Raphael served as library director for six years, retiring in 2003. In October 2003, the Board of Library Trustees appointed Richard L. Jackson as interim library director. Jackson formerly served as the assistant library director for Management and Support Services before taking his new position.

Today, the D.C. Public Library is recognized in the community as a viable resource for engaging the mind, expanding opportunities, and elevating the quality of life.

A hallmark of the D.C. Public Library's history is its unrelenting effort of reaching out to the surrounding community. Through the years, the Library has tailored services to meet specific needs. For the benefit of working people, the library system has had extended hours as late as 11:00 pm. Also, a book deposit service, as well as bus transportation had been established for those in settlement houses and in the community who could not get to the Library. This strong outreach effort continues even today with the Library's Bookmobile and ROAR services. It is also important to note that the D.C. Public Libraries were never segregated. When city schools and swimming pools were for one race only, the Library was available for everyone.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

CENTRAL LIBRARY

1) Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library
901 G Street, NW
(202) 727-1111

NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARIES

2) Anacostia
1800 Good Hope Road, SE
(202) 698-1190

3) Benning
3935 Benning Road, NE
(202) 724-4787

4) Capitol View
5001 Central Ave., SE
(202) 645-0755

5) Chevy Chase
5625 Connecticut Ave., NW
(202) 282-0021

6) Cleveland Park
3310 Connecticut Ave., NW
(202) 282-3080

7) Francis A. Gregory/Fort Davis
3660 Alabama Ave., SE
(202) 645-4297

8) Georgetown
3260 R Street, NW
(202) 282-0220

9) Juanita E. Thornton/
Shepherd Park
7240 Georgia Ave., NW
(202) 541-6100

10) Lamond-Riggs
5401 S. Dakota Ave., NE
(202) 541-6255

11) Mt. Pleasant
3160 16th Street, NW
(202) 671-0200

12) Northeast
30 7th Street, NE
(202) 698-3320

13) Palisades
4901 V Street, NW
(202) 282-3139

14) Petworth
4200 Kansas Ave., NW
(202) 541-6300

15) Southeast
403 7th Street, SE
(202) 698-3377

16) Southwest
900 Wesley Place, SW
(202) 724-4752

17) Takoma Park
416 Cedar Street, NW
(202) 576-7252

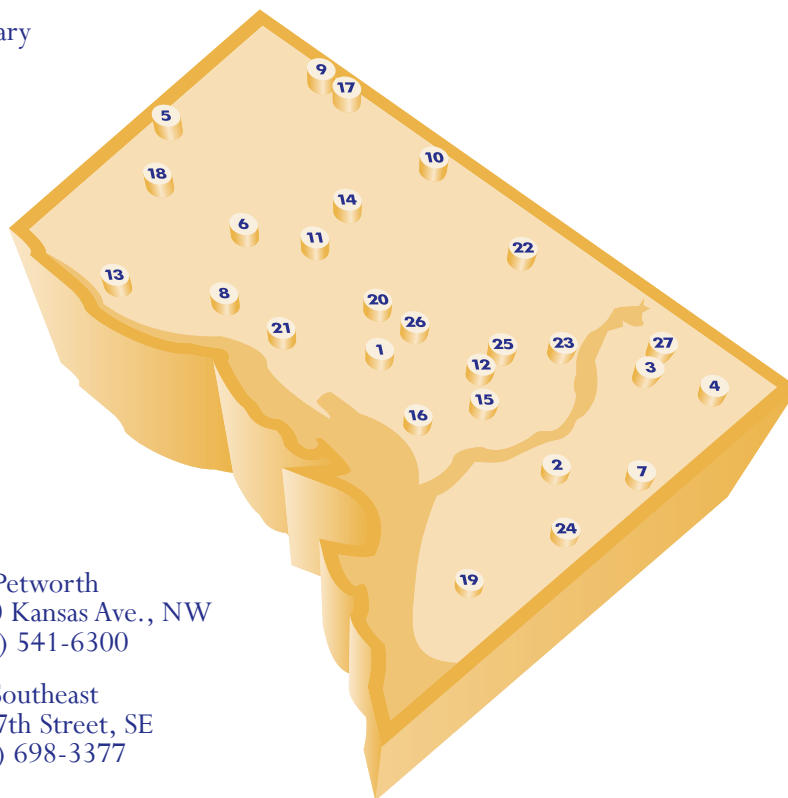
18) Tenley-Friendship
4450 Wisconsin Ave., NW
(202) 282-3090

19) Washington Highlands
115 Atlantic Street, SW
(202) 645-5880

20) Watha T. Daniel/Shaw
1701 8th Street, NW
(202) 671-0212

21) West End
1101 24th Street, NW
(202) 724-8707

22) Woodridge
1801 Hamlin Street, NE
(202) 541-6226



COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

23) Langston
2600 Benning Road, NE
(202) 724-8665

24) Parklands-Turner
1600 Alabama Ave., SE
(202) 698-1103

25) R.L. Christian
1300 H Street, NE
(202) 724-8599

26) Sursum Corda
135 New York Ave., NW
(202) 724-4772

KIOSK

27) Deanwood
4215 Nannie Helen Burroughs
Ave., NE
(202) 724-8526

ADDITIONAL ANNUAL REPORTS

- The Friends of the District of Columbia Public Library
- District of Columbia Public Library Foundation

THE FRIENDS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the District of Columbia Public Library are volunteers and advocates who believe in the value of public libraries and are dedicated to enhancing library services and programs through their activities and donations. The Friends may provide financial support to the Library in numerous ways including membership fees, donations, used book sale earnings and special events. Friends also volunteer their time and talents throughout the Library to assist in the many ways libraries provide services and materials to their customers. The Library has Friends groups for neighborhood libraries and for several divisions at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library.

Twenty-four community and neighborhood library Friends groups are members of the Federation of Friends. The mission of the Federation is to promote excellence in public library services in the District of Columbia by working with and through Friends of the Library groups and the libraries they represent. The Federation aims to encourage and support the expansion of memberships in each Friends group.

Mary Hart, Federation president 2001-2003 (Washington Highlands), has shown the Friends that by working together with the mission of outreach and support of each other, we all benefit. We applaud her and thank her and the Federation Board of Officers for their many years of friendship and their steadfast commitment to the success of the D.C. Public Library: Miles Steele III,

(Francis A. Gregory) Federation vice president, Jill Bogard (Cleveland Park) Federation secretary and the late Rita Cloutier (Cleveland Park) Federation treasurer.

In 2003, the Friends groups of the D.C. Public Library sponsored several programs and events:

The Friends of Adaptive Library Services, formerly known as the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, contributed \$1,000 to establish a descriptive video collection. The Friends continue to be especially dedicated to improving computer usage and access for people with sensory, physical and learning disabilities. They participated in a daylong *Take a Talking Book* celebration that offered information about services that could improve lives throughout the District of Columbia.

Benning Neighborhood Library Friends participated in phoning and writing letters of support for the restoration of funds to the library system.

Capitol View Neighborhood Library Friends are small in

number, but mighty. They assisted with library programs and donated furniture for the young adults corner and the adult room.

The Friends of Cleveland Park Neighborhood Library gave hundreds of hours of their time and labor to organize and administer the semi-annual used book sale. Profits were well over \$10,000 per event.



Friends spend a Saturday afternoon planting flowers at the Petworth Neighborhood Library.

The Friends of the Francis A. Gregory Neighborhood Library and staff presented several programs in the ongoing *African American Culture and Heritage Lecture Series*. They also funded a small business seminar and Branch Open House in which they recognized and celebrated the 90th birthday of Nora Drew Gregory, widow of the branch namesake and former president of the Board of Library Trustees. The Friends also held their annual Chili Cook-Off, Book and Bake Sale and Jazz Night Festival.

The Friends of the Georgetown Neighborhood Library have raised over \$20,000 for the Library since its inception five years ago. They have purchased wood shelving for books, audio books and book display equipment, and have added to the children's programming funds.

The Friends of the Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Library had several successful book sales, including their annual sale at the Mount Pleasant Festival. They have a strategic plan in place that includes new methods for fundraising and citizen's consciousness-raising. The Friends Board gave the Library several thousand dollars for books, media and supplies. The Friends also attended D.C. City Council hearings to lobby for library funds and have been circulating a petition for signatures in support of the Library.

The Friends of the Palisades Neighborhood Library publish a newsletter every spring and fall. They



Friend of the Cleveland Park Neighborhood Library works as a volunteer.

generously support library activities, providing supplies and refreshments for children's programming. They support two-dozen periodical subscriptions and provide funds to buy books for children and adults. In addition to several successful used book sales, the Friends also hosted a volunteer appreciation reception for its corps of volunteers.

The Friends of Takoma Park Neighborhood Library rallied with other community supporters to attend the D.C. City Council budget hearing.

The Friends of the Tenley-Friendship Neighborhood Library contributed toward the purchase of books and Books on Tape, as well as the *Henry Mitchell Lecture* held in honor of the late Tenley resident and longtime garden columnist for *The Washington Post*. Mitchell donated many gardening books to the branch. Also, his newspaper columns were bound and published as books, some of which are available for loan at the central library.



In October 2003, a new slate of officers was elected to the Federation of Friends Board for 2003-2005. The new officers are as follows: Miles Steele, III, president, Lillian Huff, vice president (Lamond Riggs), Elinor Green Hunter, secretary (Tenley-Friendship) and the late Rita Cloutier, treasurer (Cleveland Park) [Died: December 2003].



2003 ANNUAL REPORT

The District of Columbia Public Library Foundation (DCPLF) is a private, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization working exclusively for the betterment of the District of Columbia Public Library. Charitable contributions received by the Foundation augment inadequate taxpayer dollars and provide the Library with additional resources for materials, services, programs and equipment. However, Foundation support does not pay for operating expenses that the city government is required to provide.

In 2003, the Foundation increased its efforts to help the Library:

- Improve and promote literacy for all ages;
- Expand the materials collection while preserving and providing access to special collections;
- Strengthen its capacity to offer basic technological tools throughout the system;
- Augment rebuilding efforts by providing equipment, goods and services not covered through the budget for capital construction.

In a first-of-its-kind effort, the Foundation distributed over \$130,000 to fund some of the most critical needs within the library system—needs that cannot be met through public funds. The Foundation's newly-created grants process allowed library employees to compete for grants of up to \$7,500 to produce or enhance programs, build collections or improve technology. Almost \$73,000 in grants was awarded to 14 projects.

The popular *Summer Quest* reading program returned, introducing a record 10,700 District children to the joys of summer reading with books, storytelling and entertainment. *Holla' Back @ DCPL*, created to encourage teen readers, enrolled 845 its first summer! The Foundation also celebrated the opening of e-BIC, a collaborative Business Information Center designed for small business development and support for emerging and established entrepreneurs.

During 2003, the Foundation expanded its staff to include a part-time Executive Director, established a permanent office within the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library and broadened its base of community and financial support.

The Foundation's goal is to work with friends and supporters to build the best possible library system for the District of Columbia—one that addresses the needs, vitality and diversity of its patrons.

Nancy Peters Register
President

Board of Directors 2003

Nancy Peters Register, President
Kent Amos, Vice President
Betsy Harvey Kraft, Secretary
Thomas M. Susman, Esq., Treasurer
Miles S. Steele III, Assistant Treasurer
Greg Chernack, Esq.
Tim Levy, Esq.
James Lewis
The Honorable Howard O. Metzenbaum
Karen Murrell
Patricia Block, Esq., Of Counsel

EX-OFFICIO

Richard L. Jackson, Interim Library Director

STAFF

Lee Crane Wood, Acting Executive Director
Dean Everette, Administrative Officer

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Nora Drew Gregory
Michael Kahn
Charles Mann
Virginia E. Hayes Williams

2003 GRANTS

ADULT LITERACY RESOURCE CENTER

\$5,100 for *Let's Speak English*, a six-week, summer ESL (English as a Second Language) conversation group to provide 120 adults the opportunity to develop and/or enhance their ability to speak and understand English.

AUDIOVISUAL DIVISION

\$3,500 to rebuild and update the Alice Hagermeyer ASL (American Sign Language) Video Collection for hard of hearing customers with 100 new and replacement videos.

BOOKS PLUS, THE LIBRARY STORE

\$7,500 to purchase an automated Point-of-Sale System to generate additional revenue from the newly-reopened library store.

CLEVELAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

\$7,500 to research, establish and maintain a special interest collection of books and resources to serve Cleveland Park parents and teachers.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT COLLECTIONS

\$7,500 to upgrade the woefully out-of-date collection in the area of science projects, improving the Library's service to school-aged customers, grades 1-8, at MLK and 17 community libraries.

COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICES

\$7,500 to support the expansion of *DC Reads to Babies*, an emergent literacy program that seeks to educate new mothers who are economically deprived and hard to reach so that they will begin building early reading skills in their children.

GEORGETOWN NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

\$1,173.26 to conduct a creative writing contest for children and young adults using the process of constructing and illustrating a book.

MUSIC AND RECREATION DIVISION/ PERIODICALS DIVISION

\$6,400 to make online periodical indexes and databases more accessible to users of the periodicals collection at MLK by putting public computers on a mini-network.

POPULAR LIBRARY DIVISION AND EXHIBITS AND PROGRAMS OFFICE

\$7,500 to support *Exploring Latino Authors: Novelas Contemporáneas*, four public bilingual programs to encourage reading and discussion of literature by Latino authors born or living in the United States.

POPULAR LIBRARY DIVISION

\$1,000 to support *Edward P. Jones: A Reading*, a presentation by a local African-American author reading from his novel, *The Known World*.

SOCIOLOGY, EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT DIVISION

\$7,500 to purchase the International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

TAKOMA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY CHILDREN'S ROOM

\$421 to provide book baskets to encourage elementary school teachers to participate in the school loan program and to provide classroom lesson plans/activities for classes visiting the Library.

TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

\$7,500 to assist high school or GED graduates who are interested in careers in Allied Health fields by providing basic reference literature and online resources.

WASHINGTONIANA DIVISION

\$2,400 to purchase a dedicated computer to provide ready access to research-related Internet web-sites and/or databases.



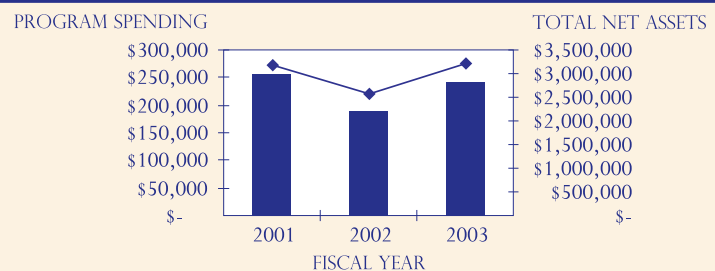
In 2003, the D.C. Public Library Foundation awarded nearly \$73,000 in grant money to fund projects specifically geared toward improving the Library's ability to do outreach and provide better programs and services.

FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2003, the D.C. Public Library Foundation generated over \$542,000 in revenue and expended just over \$309,000. Of this amount, over 78 percent or \$243,000 was spent on programs and services at the D.C. Public Library. This level of spending is consistent with recent years of spending on behalf of the Library. In the last three years, the Foundation has spent \$687,000 on library programs and services.

During 2003, the Foundation's revenue recovered from the prior year due to improvement in investment income. This improvement means that Foundation net assets are virtually the same as three years ago. Given the dramatic movement of the investment markets in the past, this performance is notable.

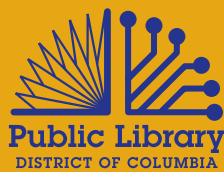
DCPL FOUNDATION: SPENDING AND NET ASSETS



Thus, while the Foundation has a substantial amount to enhance library programs and services, it has maintained its investment principle, ensuring that Foundation support can continue in the years to come.

District of Columbia Public Library Foundation, Inc.

901 G Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington D.C. 20001, Phone: (202) 727-3258, Fax: (202) 727-1129



901 G Street, NW | Washington, D.C. 20001

www.dclibrary.org